

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 15-20, 23, 24, 27 and 28. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 12-14, 21, 22, 25 and 26. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14, 21, 22, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Eitaki et al. (US 5278348) in view of JP 10-319953. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates generally to extension boards and their use with musical tone generation apparatuses. The extension board of the present invention not only provides expanded tone colors, but it also provides new functions, such as sequencer functions. The extension board can generate a specific sound pattern such as an arpeggio or a phrase based on performance information received from the musical tone generation apparatus. By providing such functions, the extension board eliminates the need for devices, such as a sequencer, to be connected to the tone generation apparatus.

In determining whether to generate a specific sound pattern, the extension board makes a decision based on the received performance information. Specifically, if the received performance information is to be used for generating a prescribed sound pattern (e.g., the performance information relates to a specific key to which a phrase is assigned), the extension board reproduces musical tone signals of the prescribed sound pattern in accordance with pattern information stored in a storage device. If the received performance information is not to be used for generating the prescribed sound pattern, the extension board reproduces musical tones signals based on the received performance information without the pattern information (see, e.g., specification at page 21, line 5 to page 22, line 12). Claims 1, 9, 21, 22, 25 and 26 (and certain dependent claims) have been amended accordingly.

Eitaki discloses that sequence information such as rhythm, bass, backing, arpeggio, chord and melody information are stored in advance in a ROM/RAM card 14. The card is inserted in an electronic musical instrument to perform sequence performance processing (see Col. 5, lines 23-40). Eitaki, thus, merely discloses a card from which information is read. It does not disclose that the ROM/RAM card 14, upon receiving performance information, makes a decision as to whether or not the received performance information is to be used for generating a prescribed sound pattern. Nor does it disclose reproducing musical tone signals of the prescribed sound pattern in accordance with pattern information if the received performance information is to be used for generating the prescribed sound pattern, and reproducing musical tone signals based on the received performance information without the pattern information if the received performance information is not to be used for generating the prescribed sound pattern.

JP '953 (previously submitted) discloses plug-in boards 191 and 199 to be inserted in the mother board of an electronic musical instrument. Each plug-in board has a CPU as illustrated. JP '953 is apparently a priority application to US 6,069,311 (also previously submitted) which discloses that sound source plug-in boards (see Col. 10, lines 5-40) generate musical tone signals of certain parts of MIDI signals supplied to the electronic musical instrument. However, there is no disclosure that the plug-in boards decide whether or not the received performance information is to be used for generating a prescribed sound pattern and, based on the decision, perform the recited reproduction discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-14, 21, 22, 25 and 26 are patentable over the cited references.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 15-20, 23, 23, 27 and 28, but respectfully disagrees with the statement of allowance. Claims 15-17, 23 and 27 are patentable over the cited references because the references fail to disclose the recited system having a tone color extension board with a sequencer that reproduces a sound pattern based on key-operation information supplied from the musical tone generation device so as to generate second musical tone signals having the extended tone color in accordance with the sound pattern. Claims 18-20, 24 and 28 are likewise patentable over the cited references for similar reasons.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032014800. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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